

Assignment I

When Ben Franklin needed something that was not invented yet, he simply made it himself. For example, when he couldn't reach the books on the top shelf of his library, he designed and made an arm extender. He named this invention the long arm.

First, Ben thought about the problem. Then he sketched his design, identifying the materials he would need to build his invention. Ben believed that, "Necessity is the mother of invention." *

Look around you. Is there something that you could really use to make your life easier or safer? With the students in your group, identify some of these needs. List these needs on your invention proposal sheet. Brainstorm ideas for solutions. When you have made a decision about an invention, sketch a draft at the bottom of the proposal sheet. Ben carefully labeled his drawings, and you will need to label your drawing too. List the materials you will use and write a clear description of how your invention works.

Transfer this information to a poster to share with the class.

Internet Connection: What is a patent?

Inventors patent their inventions so that others will not copy their ideas and profit from them. Ben Franklin chose not to patent his inventions, even though the Pennsylvania Assembly offered him a patent on one of his inventions, the Franklin stove. You can learn more about patents and inventions by going to the U.S. Patent Office website - <http://www.uspto.gov/go/kids>. Click on *Imagination Machine* and then on *Hatch an Idea*. This task will help you to "hatch" an invention idea for this project.

*Ben's sayings are quite famous. Did he write this one? What do you think this saying means?